



Hope: Believing that something good can come out of something bad

Memory Verse

"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."
John 16:33b, NIV

Bible Story

Jesus Appears to Thomas
John 20:19-29

Key Question

What questions do you have for God?

Use this guide to help your family learn about hope.

Activity

Fact or Fiction

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Tell your child that you're going to read them a list of 10 statements. Some of these statements are fact, and some are fiction. They have to guess which ones are which.

To raise the stakes, have your child guess how many they think they'll get right. If they get fewer correct than what they initially guessed, they have to endure a silly consequence, like making YOUR bed for a week! Keep track of their score as you play.

Fact or fiction?

- Do you believe that in Tokyo, Japan, a bicycle is faster than a car for trips of less than 50 minutes? (*Fact*)
- Do you believe that 50 years ago, M&M'S® were candy-coated jelly beans during a chocolate shortage? (*Fiction*)
- Do you believe that when glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 932 miles per hour . . . so if you want to photograph the event, a camera must shoot at a millionth of a second? (*Fact*)
- Do you believe that a violin contains about 70 pieces of wood? (*Fact*)
- Do you believe that people in parts of Ireland like Thomas the Tank Engine so much that they've put faces on all their trains? (*Fiction*)
- Do you believe that elastic in your underwear will last twice as long if you freeze it after washing it? (*Fiction*)
- Do you believe that Japan has square watermelons because they're stackable? (*Fact*)

Talk About the Bible Story

Which was the most surprising fact or fiction statement? Sometimes we feel like we need to actually SEE something in order to believe it's really true!

In our story today, who had to see something in order to believe it was true? (*Thomas*)

"Doubts and questions about God are good, because they show that you're thinking through really important stuff about life." Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

What's the BEST thing you can do when you have questions and doubts about God? (*Talk about it, pray about it.*) What's the WORST thing you can do? (*Keep it to yourself.*)

Parent: Share about a time when you had a big question for or about God. How did that change or shape your faith?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for caring about our questions. You are so big and powerful, but You care about every concern, every doubt, and every worry we have. When we have questions, please help us trust You, and remind us to go to You and to other wise people who trust You. In Jesus name we pray; amen."